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5 FEB 1966

## MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

**SUBJECT:** Department of State Action on Purple Heart-Type Award for Civilians

1. In January a Department of State cable from Ambassador Lodge (copy attached to the draft attached letter to Under Secretary Crockett), set forth the Ambassador's strong support for the proposition that the Purple Heart be authorized for civilian employees of the U. S. Government killed or injured as a direct result of war. He cited in this connection the injury and death of U. S. personnel in the Saigon Embassy. He also indicated that General Westmoreland is in agreement with his proposal. We are advised by a member of the Office of Management Planning of the Department of State (Mr. Hupper), with whom we have been in contact at your request, that partly as a result of that cable, Management Planning is proposing to go back to Under Secretary Crockett with two separate recommendations. First, they are proposing a letter from Mr. Crockett to Assistant Secretary of Defense John McNaughton requesting an appropriate ruling that civilian employees injured or killed in Saigon are eligible for the Purple Heart under the terms of the existing Executive Order (E.O. 11016). That order authorizes the Purple Heart for "...any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with an armed force of .... a military department who is killed or wounded "(a), (b), (c), (d), or (e)".

2. Mr. Hupper advises that Management Planning feels the Executive Order may be in sufficiently broad terms to permit awards to civilians in Saigon, because of the command structure of U. S. authorities in Saigon, but probably not to civilians

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elsewhere in the world other than employees of the Department of Defense. Therefore, the Office of Management Planning is also proposing to Under Secretary Crockett that the Department seek an amendment to the Executive Order to permit the award of the Purple Heart to civilians elsewhere in the world, that is, to civilians not so directly associated with the military. You will recall that Under Secretary Crockett earlier had responded quite favorably to your suggestions that the Purple Heart Executive Order be expanded to apply to civilians not now eligible. Later, however, he concluded it would be preferable to establish a new award rather than to seek an expanded eligibility for the Purple Heart. Mr. Hupper indicates that in view of the support expressed by Ambassador Lodge and General Westmoreland, it seems quite likely that Under Secretary Crockett will be willing to go ahead with action to broaden eligibility for the Purple Heart. Mr. Crockett of course may prefer to defer or reject the proposal for a new Executive Order, pending a response from Defense as to civilians in Saigon. Also, Ambassador Lodge indicates he has understood the military would frown on the awarding of Purple Hearts to civilians, and he may be optimistic in concluding that because General Westmoreland "would be very glad to see civilian employees of the U. S. Government receive this medal" the military will support an expansion of coverage for the Purple Heart.

3. Mr. Hupper had also indicated that staff personnel within State in proposing a new award, rather than an expanded Purple Heart, have been tending toward the idea of establishing this award by action of the Secretary of State, thus avoiding the necessity of an amendment to Executive Order 11616 or other Presidential action. This approach doubtless would have this advantage, and the Secretary no doubt does have the legal authority to establish such an award. The Purple Heart however has historical roots reaching back to action by General George Washington in the Revolutionary War in 1782 and is now an award based on Presidential order, and for these reasons of course is much better known and is a greater honor than would be an award issued only under the authority of a new directive by the Secretary of State.

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[Redacted]

5. Mr. Hupper indicates he hopes Under Secretary Crockett will approve a letter to Assistant Secretary McNaughton on Monday, February 7. (Mr. Hupper has not contacted Mr. McNaughton or his Office, but he assumes Crockett may do so before sending a letter.) In view of these developments, you may want to contact Under Secretary Crockett either before he communicates with the Department of Defense or thereafter. In the event you want to contact Under Secretary Crockett by letter, a suggested letter for your signature for that purpose is attached.

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6. [Redacted] advises that a number of cases additional to those of the Saigon Embassy now are awaiting the establishment of an appropriate award by the Agency or otherwise.

(Signed) RICHARD H. LANSDALE

[Redacted]  
Associate General Counsel

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**Attachments**

**cc: D/Personnel**

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[Redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

66-512

5 FEB 1966

Memorable William J. Crockett  
Deputy Under Secretary  
for Administration  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

You will recall our discussions and correspondence last year on the proposal to broaden the Purple Heart concept to make eligible for that award civilian employees of the government injured in the course of their official duties, the explosion at our Embassy in Saigon being the immediate cause of our discussions. After some consideration, the objective was modified and staff work within the Department has gone forward looking to the establishment, by the Secretary of State, of a new award for civilian employees injured or killed.

As you know, early in January Ambassador Lodge by cable, copy enclosed, indicated his strong support for the proposition that the Purple Heart be made available to civilian employees injured or killed as a direct result of war. The Ambassador also indicated General Westmoreland supports this position. Also, the Purple Heart, as you know now is a Presidential award and was first established by General Washington in 1782 during the Revolutionary War. The award consequently is well known and is highly regarded.

We are advised that staff levels within the Department are considering a request to the Department of Defense for a ruling that all U. S. civilians serving in Saigon are eligible for the Purple Heart under the Executive Order (E.O. 11016) as now written, in addition to a proposal to enlarge Purple Heart eligibility to cover

civilians not serving with the military. The Central Intelligence Agency endorses both proposals. I will be glad to confer with Defense officials also, or to assist in any way you think useful.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. K. White

L. K. White

Executive Director-Comptroller

**Enclosure**

**Distribution:**

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